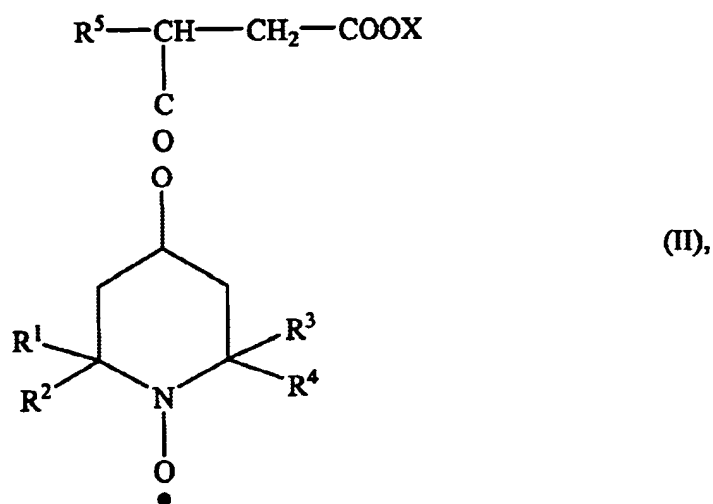
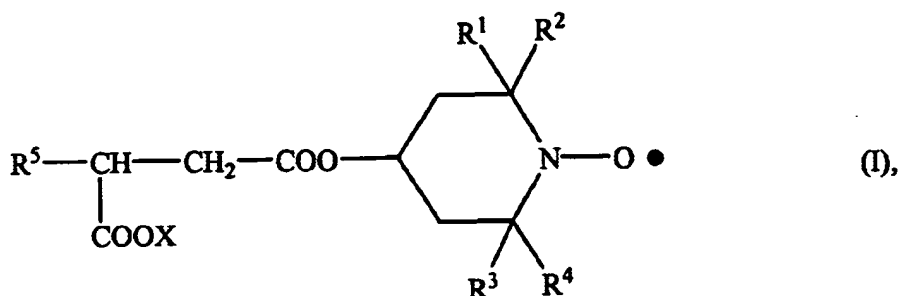


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process comprising

inhibiting ~~conducting~~ free radical polymerization ~~on~~ in a mixture comprising at least one chemical compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated group, wherein inhibiting ~~said~~ free radical polymerization is carried out by mixing in the presence of at least one compound of formulae (I) or (II) with said mixture



where X is H, an alkali metal or ammonium,

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, independently of one another, are each C<sub>1</sub>- to C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl and

R<sup>5</sup> is C<sub>8</sub>- to C<sub>30</sub>-alkyl.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one chemical compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, styrene, an ester of acrylic acid and an ester of methacrylic acid.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises (meth)acrylic acid and an organic liquid having a higher boiling point than (meth)acrylic acid.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises  $\geq 95\%$  by weight of (meth)acrylic acid.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one of rectification, extraction or absorption.

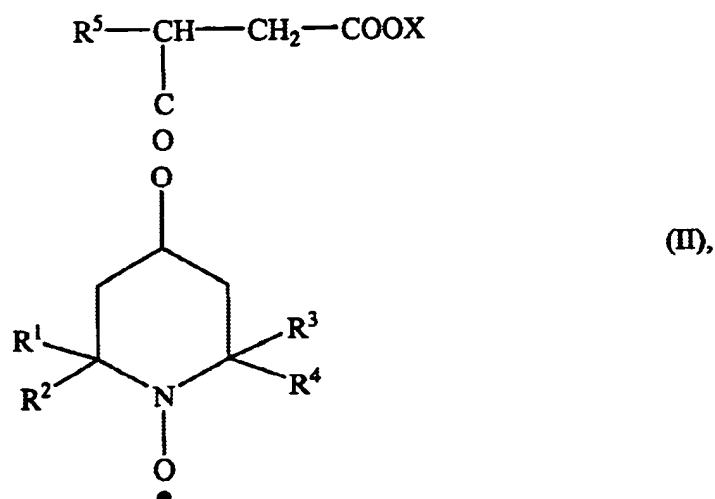
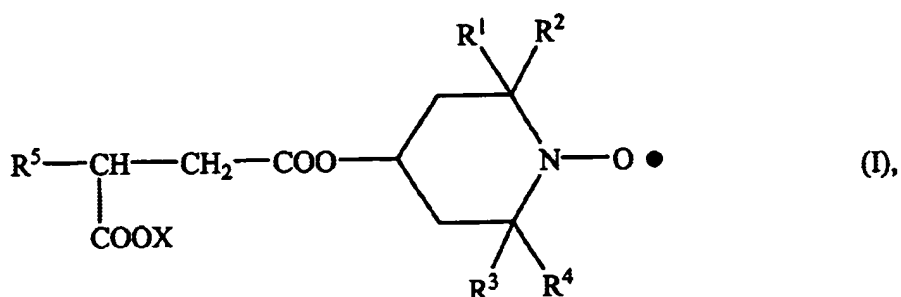
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are either all methyl or all ethyl.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is H.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out from 100 to 200°C.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out at  $\leq 100$  mbar.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A mixture comprising at least one chemical compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated group and at least one compound of formulae (I) or (II)



where X is H, an alkali metal or ammonium,

$R^1, R^2, R^3$  and  $R^4$ , independently of one another, are each  $C_1$ - to  $C_4$ -alkyl and

$R^5$  is  $C_8$ - to  $C_{30}$ -alkyl.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A mixture as claimed in claim 10, wherein said at least one chemical compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated group is at least one selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, styrene, esters of acrylic acid and esters of methacrylic acid.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A mixture as claimed in claim 10, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are either all methyl or all ethyl.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process comprising  
inhibiting ~~conducting~~ free radical polymerization ~~on~~ in a mixture comprising at least one chemical compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated group, wherein inhibiting ~~said~~ free radical polymerization is carried out by mixing in the presence of at least one compound which is obtained by reacting an alkylsuccinic anhydride having a number average molar mass of from 212 to 1400 with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-N-~~only~~ onyl, with said mixture.

**BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT**

Claims 1-13 are active in the present application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to correctly state that the process is a process comprising inhibiting free radical polymerizations in mixtures containing ethylenically unsaturated species. Support for the amendment is found through the specification as filed. No new matter is added.